

Northampton July 26<sup>th</sup> 1838

B. 3. 74

To Mr. Colman.

Dear Sir,

The reason I did not give your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> an immediate answer, was that I waited to hear from Ellis Gray Loring of Boston, concerning the nature of the contract proposed to be made by you. &c. I did not suppose it would make any very material difference whether you received my reply a few days sooner or later. The Contract has just been sent to me for my signature, and a few hours ago I received a second letter from you.

With regard to the Girl's Book, I can think of no additions, which would much increase its value; nor do I generally believe in the policy of putting new patches upon old books. Those who have already purchased it, would not buy it again for the sake of a few additions; and as a general thing, those who have not bought it, would not be much more likely to, with a few alterations, than in its present state.

With regard to the Juvenile Miscellany, the copyright never belonged to me. Putnam sold it to Carter & Fendee, and when they failed, I was informed that somehow or other it was made over to T. H. Carter. The settlement of the Lancaster concern was a tangled affair, which I never was able to comprehend; but I believe the ownership of the Juvenile Miscellany rests between Carter & Fendee & T. H. Carter; and I suppose a difficulty would arise should any use be made of it without their consent. I have for some time past, wished to publish a revised edition of it, under the title of *Mrs. Child's Library for Children*, in volumes of uniform size; one volume



containing what was suitable for children ~~for~~<sup>for</sup> 3 or 4 years old, others for children 7 or 8; others for 10 or 12. My idea was to use only my own writing in it, together with the best parts of my Juvenile Souvenir, Evenings in New England, and whatever else I had occasionally written for children. Should the spirit move, and the sale warrant it, this collection might be enlarged by some entirely new volumes. I have been deterred from attempting it in this country by apprehended difficulty about the copyright; and T. H. Carter himself did not seem to be in a situation to undertake it to advantage.

Bentley of London having expressed a wish to publish something for me, I made the proposition to him; but he replied, "However successful such a work might be in the hands of Publishers in the habit of issuing Juvenile works, I feel that it might be a failure if published by me." Not knowing who were publishers of Juvenile works in London, I gave up the project. Whether you and I could make an arrangement of this sort mutually profitable, I know not.

With regard to your daughter, I am extremely obliged to you for the confidence you repose in me, and sincerely wish it was in my power to conform to your wishes; but it is not. Situated just as I am, I could not perform the duty as I should wish to perform it, if I undertook it.

As for preparing one or two juvenile works this fall, I have been so long out of the way of children, and life is getting to be such a deep and serious matter to me, that I do not feel as if I could ever again succeed in that kind of writing. If I can do anything of this kind, I will forthwith let you know.



Give my very affectionate remembrance to your interesting wife,  
and believe me Yrs Truly, L. M. Child.

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Samuel C. Colman.

141 Nassau St.

New York.



N.Y.